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DATE 25X1C

Survey: Deposition of Iron Oxide Deposits

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Location and Description of Damages

1. The Soviets have been exploiting the uranium deposits of the Erz Gebirge area near the Czechoslovakian border since about Sep 46. These workings, which are small, are discernible by crude wooden shaft towers scattered around the towns of Oberschlema, Schreiberberg, Neustadt, Lechowitz and Johanngeorgenstadt. The shafts are sunk to depths of 30 to 50 feet and workers tunnel from their bases in several directions. No of supports for the tunnel are simply log drops. The pits are not deep enough to require an air supply, but water pumps are needed in some instances.

Operations

1. Miners load the uranium earth into dump cars which are hoisted to the top of the shaft and sent by overhead cables to a truck loading platform. In some instances, the earth is loaded into small wooden boxes in the pit; otherwise the loading is done at the truck loading platform.
2. Most of the output is transported to proving centers within the area. One of these is an old factory building near the Oberschlema railroad station, where the only workers are Russian women.
3. Each worker is equipped with an instrument to test the strength of the uranium content. Acceptable boxes are sealed and loaded into closed freight cars. The latter's ultimate destination is unknown to the German train crews since the locomotives and crews are changed at a nearby stop and the shipments continue in the direction of the USSR.

Leber and Working Conditions

5. In the Erz Gebirge area 18,000 German workers, drafted by the labor offices in nearby villages, are engaged in uranium mining. The workers are billeted in this area and, since their families are not with them, are paid a small separation allowance. Wages are above the rates prevailing in other occupations and extra food rations are given for fulfillment of work quotas.

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6. German labor is closely supervised by Soviet guards and, to insure absolute secrecy of technology, all technical matters are handled exclusively by the Russians. For example, all German personnel were removed during conduct of a test to determine the quality of the soil and production of the veins.
7. Production is on a 24-hour (three 8-hour shifts) and 7-day-week basis.

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